

The National Science Foundation director will award the IT Partnership Grants to 5 cities with the best package of business sponsorship and curricular development. In addition, priority will be given to those local education agencies that grant scholarships to students who are first generation college students.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we can get up support for this legislation. Because there are companies, and I have many in my district, that are screaming out for these people to be qualified so they can give them jobs.

JIMMY HERMAN—WARRIOR FOR JUSTICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, sadly I rise to call to the attention of my colleagues the passing of a good friend of working people in America, Jimmy Herman.

Jimmy Herman is one of the most respected and beloved labor leaders in San Francisco history, and he died on Friday. He was the president emeritus of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

Jimmy was known for his enormous compassion, commitment to workers' rights and social justice. His life was truly about justice. He was also an extraordinary orator who inspired thousands to take up the cause of workers' rights, justice for farm workers, peace in Vietnam, to name a few. His death marks the end of an historic era in the labor history of the San Francisco Bay area and our Nation.

Jimmy devoted his life to building a strong, democratic and multiracial trade union. Since the big strike of 1934, the ILWU has provided democratic and strong representation that gives voice, and that is "democratic" with a small "d", Mr. Speaker, to the aspirations of working people up and down the West Coast.

The ILWU broke down barriers denied members of minority groups by providing access to a decent standard of living. It also provided a powerful means for working men and women to make a contribution to the political and social fabrics of their communities.

Under the leadership of Harry Bridges, followed by Jim Herman, the ILWU faced head-on the great political challenges of our Nation, refusing in the 1930s to load scrap metal on ships bound for Japan or to unload cargo in ships bearing the Nazi swastika.

Jim Herman led his union in its efforts to oppose the apartheid regime in South Africa, leading his members in refusing to unload cargo sent from South Africa. Jim Herman had a social conscience that did not allow for rest or moral fatigue. His moral leadership played an important role in bringing about a negotiated end to the war in El Salvador.

In November 1989, Neighbor to Neighbor, a national grass-roots human rights organization based in San Francisco, launched a boycott of Salvadoran coffee to apply economic pressure on the Salvadoran Government and the coffee growers, many of whom had founded and funded the notorious death squads. The boycott was triggered by the murder of 6 Jesuit priests and the bombing of a Salvadoran trade union federation.

My chief of staff in San Francisco, Fred Ross, was the head of Neighbor to Neighbor at that time. So I was well aware of Jimmy's leadership and involvement. Under Jimmy's leadership, the ILWU strongly endorsed the coffee boycott. The members honored picket lines on the docks of San Francisco, Vancouver, B.C., Seattle, and gave the *Ciudad de Buenaventura* ship loaded with 43 tons of Salvadoran coffee a final rejection in Long Beach, forcing it to sail back to El Salvador with its coffee in its hold.

□ 1845

The ILWU effectively sealed off the West Coast from shipments of Salvadoran coffee over the next 2 years.

Another cause that Jim Herman championed was that of the farm workers led by Cesar Chavez. He was one of the first labor leaders to go to Delano to join the farm workers on the picket line. Later in his life he was a mentor to people at Delancey Street Foundation in San Francisco.

I will submit for the RECORD some of the particulars of his background which is an extraordinary one.

On this Earth, God's work for the poor, the disenfranchised for peace and social justice was done with love and compassion by Jim Herman throughout his lifetime. He was truly a warrior for justice.

My heartfelt sympathies go out to his two brothers, Rodman Herman and Milton Herman. On a very personal note, I along with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO), the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) and many other members of the California delegation have lost a friend, a person who loved life, loved politics and all of the art of the impossibilities. Jim Herman's passion for life was matched only by his rage for justice.

He is now our shining star, the one with the twinkle of merriment for all to see as night draws near, the twinkle that we will miss in his eye forever. We will miss you, our dear Jimmy, our sweet friend.

Born in Newark, NJ on August 21, 1924, son of a school janitor, Jim Herman went to sea in the early months of World War II. Sailing was a tough, lonely business, "... But it provided the opportunity to read everything in reach, and to talk with people who had seen it all," Jimmy once remarked.

As a 16-year-old in 1942 he served on a freighter backing up the invasion of North Africa. After the war he was a steward on the *Lurline* during its majestic cruises between San Francisco and Honolulu. In 1949 he led a

walkout that forced the *Lurline* empty and silent for 6 months in solidarity with an ILWU strike in the massive sugar cane fields of Hawaii.

In 1953, he joined Warehouse Local 6 in San Francisco. In 1956 he moved to Ship Clerk's Local 34, where he was elected vice president in 1960 and president 1 year later. He was re-elected every 2 years thereafter, until his election to the presidency of the ILWU in 1977.

His leadership was characterized by the continuation of the rank and file style of the leadership which had characterized the ILWU during Bridges' years. Under Jim Herman's leadership, through five sets of negotiations, the daily wage of longshoremen more than doubled, and the maximum monthly pension benefit tripled.

In 1988, he steered the ILWU toward affiliation with the AFL-CIO, ending a long chapter of exclusion which had benefited neither the ILWU nor the Nation's labor movement. Throughout his presidency he was the ILWU's ambassador, building and strengthening the union's relationships with maritime and other unions, and within the larger community. Most of all, he kept the ILWU—with its broad and complex jurisdiction in the maritime industry, tourism, warehouse and distribution, manufacturing and processing—strong and viable in extraordinarily difficult times.

The labor movement was his family. "The labor movement offered me a chance to be part of history, not just a passive observer," he has said. "I'll never be able to repay that debt." It's not for lack of effort. Take Jim Herman's mentorship with the young men and women putting their lives back together at Delancey Street. "He makes me cry," says Mimi Silbert, president of the drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. "Two of three times a week he drops by to have coffee with the residents, talking, getting them interested in the world outside themselves, strengthening their faith in themselves."

CONGRESSIONAL TRIP TO KOSOVO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOB SCHAFER of Colorado). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, just yesterday I returned from the Balkans along with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY). We had hoped to go into a region called Kosovo to monitor elections that were being held this past Sunday by the Albanians in the region of Kosovo who make up 90 percent, 2 million people, 90 percent of Kosovo, but have no political, economic or human rights whatsoever.

I have been to Kosovo a number of times, and I can tell my colleagues the people, they are truly a people under oppression. We have witnessed during the past few weeks, Mr. Speaker, the wanton killings of men, women and children by the Serbian police forces going into villages and slaughtering people. It reminds us of what happened in Bosnia early on. If the West, particularly the United States, does not

take strong action early on, we will wind up with another Bosnia in Kosovo.

Kosovo again are people, Albanians, 90 percent ethnic Albanians, they have no rights, they have no political rights, they have no economic rights, unemployment is high, they cannot teach in the Albanian language. They are constantly oppressed, harassed, beaten and murdered. This Sunday they conducted their own elections. The Albanian leadership conducted their elections. Dr. Ibrahim Rugova was reelected as the president. They elected a parliament. This parliament and Dr. Rugova had been elected 6 years ago but the parliament had never been allowed to meet under threat of jail or exile.

We had hoped to go there, but we were stopped at the border. First, we were denied visas here in Washington and then we were denied visas when we flew to Macedonia; in Skopje we could not get visas. We went to the border and we were stopped by the Serbian guards, who told us we could not get in.

It is unprecedented that three Members of this Congress would be barred from visiting another country. This is the first time that I have been barred and the first time I have heard of Members of Congress being barred. But again it shows the arrogance of the leadership of the Serbian government, particularly President Milosevic, who has done the kind of atrocities in Europe that makes one remember the Nazi era, with the ethnic cleansing and the genocide being perpetrated first on the Bosnian Muslims, now on the Albanians, a constant pattern of harassment and killings and intimidation of the Albanians.

The people of Kosovo I believe have the right to self-determination, the same self-determination we would want for ourselves or for all free peoples around the world. They have the absolute right to determine their destiny. They have the absolute right to determine their political future if they want to be an independent republic.

I personally, this Congressman support them, and if they want to do whatever they want to do as a free people, they have the right to do so. The United States must very strongly stand with them. This House last week passed a resolution sponsored by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and myself and lots of other people calling on the Serbs to end their oppression, condemning the Serbian oppression against the Albanian majority in Kosovo. The contact group is meeting tomorrow. Under the able leadership of Ambassador Gelbard and Secretary of State Albright they will be pushing for further sanctions on the Serbian regime. They have to understand that the people of Kosovo need to be free, the people of Kosovo will not tolerate and the people of the world will not tolerate the wanton slaughter of innocent men, women and children.

They went into villages and just killed people. This is unheard of. We

will not stand by and allow genocide and ethnic cleansing to continue. The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and myself all took very, very strong stands. It was outrageous that we were not allowed to go into the border. We can only say that the Serbian leader must be hiding something because he does not want us to know the truth.

To add insult to injury, while we were not allowed to go to the border, Mr. Milosevic's forces jailed six Americans on trumped-up phony charges, jailed them and put them in prison. Thankfully, those prisoners were finally released yesterday after our State Department intervened, after the three of us made very strong statements urging their release, and they are here in Washington and we are going to meet them in a little while to have dinner with them, and tomorrow morning we are calling a press conference to let the world know what we saw and the brutality that Milosevic is putting onto the Albanian people. We are going to have these Americans who were imprisoned against their will join us at the press conference.

I would like to now yield to either one of my colleagues if they would like to comment. We are going to spend the next 15 minutes talking and comparing notes and letting the American people know precisely what is happening.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIP TO KOSOVO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I too just returned from the Republic of Macedonia, where I participated in this 14-member bipartisan congressional mission to Kosovo, invited to observe presidential and parliamentary elections in the Republic of Kosovo. We also sought to learn the facts surrounding the brutal repression currently taking place in Kosovo by the Serbs. Our mission was simply to observe and bear witness to the happenings in this troubled part of the world.

Unfortunately, the Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, denied our entry into Kosovo. Let us be clear. We worked very diligently in advance of this trip to ensure that we would receive our visas to enter Kosovo. We contacted the Yugoslav embassy in Washington well in advance of our trip. We submitted our visa applications and generally provided whatever information was needed to support this important trip.

We waited several days for a response to our request and called the embassy on a daily basis to inquire into the status of our request. The answer always came back the same, "We are considering it. We'll get back to you." With still no answer, our delegation made the decision to proceed with the hope that we would be granted visas. Unfor-

tunately, we arrived in Macedonia, which borders Kosovo, to the disappointing news that our request had been denied.

Why? Supposedly the reason given was the inadequacies of the information we provided in our visa applications to the Yugoslav government. Perhaps the true reason was that President Milosevic did not want us to see firsthand the brutal campaign of repression he has waged against the ethnic Albanian population of Kosovo.

Despite this denial, Mr. Speaker, we decided to make one last effort to cross the border. We assembled the delegation and made our way to the nearest border post separating Kosovo and Macedonia. The location was a remote one. It was extremely cold as we made our way on foot from the Macedonian checkpoint to the border of Kosovo. Unfortunately, the heavily armed border guards had no intention of allowing us to proceed.

A CNN camera crew which was already across the border in Kosovo was prevented from coming down to the border checkpoint to talk with us. We finally gave up, Mr. Speaker, and returned to the capital of Macedonia, where we established an election monitoring effort there. The election did take place despite repression and violence by Serb police and paramilitary units, and the people of Kosovo elected Ibrahim Rugova to another term as President.

Sadly, the Serbs consider this election an illegal one and continue to deny the people of Kosovo basic human rights, such as the right to choose their own elected leaders. Mr. Speaker, the people of Kosovo want nothing more than to simply live and work in peace, yet the Serbs time and again resort to violence and repression in an effort to maintain control over the former Yugoslav republics.

I want my colleagues in this institution as well as the American people to know of our experiences in simply seeking to observe an election and investigate human rights abuses. I want them to know of the violence that is taking place right now against the people of Kosovo.

I heard today that another half a dozen villages have been surrounded and there is heavy artillery up there around these new villages that have been surrounded. Many are dead, tens of thousands are homeless, and scores of towns are currently under siege by Serbian military units. Innocent civilians are without food and heat. It was recently reported that six ethnic Albanians died from starvation and cold.

I want the world to know of what is going on in Kosovo because we must not allow Kosovo to become another Bosnia. Yet that is exactly what could happen. Until now, the resistance in Kosovo has largely been peaceful and nonviolent. I hope and pray that it remains that way. My greatest fear is that the Serbian brutality and repression results in more armed resistance